

Miller & Rhoads

Mail Orders Filled at Advertised Prices.

Anticipate Your Spring Needs for

White Goods: Fully One-Fourth

Pure Linen Lawns, 25c yd

Fine sheer fabrics, 36 inches wide, that we cannot buy again to sell under 30c yard. We have a few hundred yards in this lot.

French Lawns, 15c and 25c yd

Two qualities, both 45 inches wide. Mill prices are much higher now than when these

goods were purchased. You'll find our 15c quality as good as anything else in Richmond at 25c, and our 25c grade equal to values sold at 35c.

Imperial English Nain-sook

Extra fine cloth, made of Sea Island cotton—\$1.50 and \$1.75 per piece of 12 yards; 36 inches wide, and worth \$1.50 and \$1.75. \$1.00 per piece, 40 inches wide, worth \$2.35.

Centre Pieces, Shams, Scarfs, Lunch Cloths,

Were 50c to \$6.50 each

Now 25c to \$4.50

May Manton Patterns, 10c by mail, 12c.

About one hundred pieces of fancy linen, soiled and mussed from display during the holidays, will be sold at a reduction of one-third to one-half on the regular prices. It's an unusual opportunity to pick up some beautiful linens.

(Linen Department—Main Floor.)

RICHARDS'S CHARGES FULLY SUSTAINED

Investigation Reveals Startling Facts About Sewer Rates.

MAY LOOK INTO ENTIRE SYSTEM

Council Determined to Find Out Whether Overcharges Were Due to Incompetency or Graft—Richards Right in Each Case.

Official and direct evidence that citizens of Marshall Ward have been the victims of an outrageous system of overcharging in the matter of sewer connections was laid bare yesterday when a special committee completed a searching investigation of the figures submitted by Councilman C. E. Richards, each and every one of the fourteen cases presented by Mr. Richards the committee found ample proof that his measurements were correct, the largest single excess amount being \$20.75.

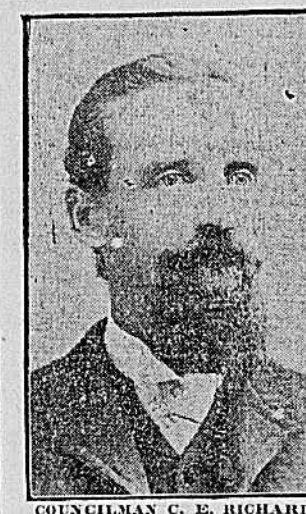
Unless the Street Committee demands at once a more thorough investigation for the purpose of placing the guilt where it belongs, that course will be urged on the floor of Council, members expressing themselves in the most emphatic terms last night to the effect that it was a case of wholesale graft or wholesale incompetency that needs prompt attention. With this end in view they say that the limit must be thrown into every corner of the Engineering Department, and the overcharges resulted from the work of an official or officials under its jurisdiction.

Made No Formal Charges. Without making charges against anybody in particular, Councilman Richards, mindful of the numerous complaints heaped the way alone, while many of his colleagues openly and brazenly shouted from the housetops that he was talking through his hat. But this did not disturb him or deter him from seeking the light he had set out to find. It was not so long ago that prominent members of the upper branch ridiculed the Hobson charges against the City Home, and then had to admit the proof. Mr. Richards, likewise, has converted the skeptics.

With the facts presented yesterday there is more than a possibility that tape lines and sounding rods will be used throughout the city generally. Indeed, the public may demand it. It is admitted, moreover, that if what happened in Marshall Ward happened in all other wards, there will be claims for damages against the city amounting to thousands of dollars—all because of the official acceptance of statements as to what was done on sewer contracts.

Guided by Ruskell's Report. Assistant City Engineer Jackson Bolton, temporarily in charge of the office, said yesterday afternoon that the claims of the contractors had already been paid, his office having accepted the report of William F. Ruskell, sewer inspector, without verification or question. Mr. Bolton very frankly and honestly admitted that some of the blame would rest upon his own shoulders inasmuch as he had regarded the measurement of Mr. Ruskell as correct. So far as Mr. Bolton personally was concerned, however, members of Council said it would be unreasonable to suppose that he should be required to go behind the inspector and verify his returns when he had important and multitudinous duties at the office and in more important lines of work. Every effort to locate Mr. Ruskell with a view to securing a statement from him proved unavailing yesterday afternoon.

The investigation yesterday was conducted by Assistant City Engineer Bolton, Inspector Ruskell, who had made the original measurements, Councilman John J. Lynch, of the Subcommittee of Streets, and Councilman Richards. The latter was the first to arrive at Thirty-fourth and Marshall Streets, designated as the starting point. Some of the contractors strolled up to watch the dig-



COUNCILMAN C. E. RICHARDS.

ging. In a short time President Peters, of the Common Council, appeared, and when Mr. Lynch, who was not expected, came in the place of Alderman Mann, who did not report, the workmen got busy. They kept it up until 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and in each of the fourteen cases examined the Richards' charges were substantiated. In all of them, however, he did not have his figures exactly confirmed, for there was more or less haggling over the tape line. But in the end he was overwhelmingly vindicated.

In the statement printed below the amount of the overcharge as presented by Mr. Richards is given, together with the amount which the committee admitted. The figures are in dollars and cents. The Marshall Ward Councilman picked out fourteen, and only fourteen cases, and as there was a glaring discrepancy the fourteen were investigated. In other words, he bagged fourteen out of a possible fourteen. The list speaks for itself.

As to what he believes to be excessive charges for work, aside from the incorrect measurements, Mr. Richards fortified his position in another particular by selecting a contract which cost a citizen \$24.50. He found out exactly how much pipe was necessary, and how much pipe was needed, and all other facts, and then interviewed four of the leading plumbers of Richmond. Their estimates were: \$68.07, \$51.70, the two others being \$54.50 each. This, however, was merely a side line, so to speak.

Contractors Already Paid. When a property owner desires to connect his house with the street sewer he must apply to the City Engineer, who gives out the contract. Apparently, the greatest cost is in making the excavations. Mr. Bolton explained that the regulations require a two-foot ditch for a pipe anywhere from six to twelve inches. The ditch must be larger as the size of the pipe needed is increased. After the work is completed the Sewer Inspector turns in a statement, bills are made out and the contractor is paid. The property owner, however, does not settle until a few days later, and it happens that in these Marshall Ward cases the city has collected from the contractors without Mr. Richards, the latter will receive financial benefit as outlined in the table printed above, and unless the city can recover from the contractors it will lose the difference between the actual and the erroneous amounts.

A. W. Smith Fined. A. W. Smith (white) was called in to the charge of being drunk and disorderly and cursing and abusing John A. Williams, and was fined \$20 and put under \$100 security.

What Richards Charged and Proved in Fourteen Cases

	Over-charge Claimed.	Over-charge Allowed.
1. Malvin Johns, 314 North Thirty-fourth Street.....	\$16.93	\$15.36
2. Malvin Johns, 314 North Thirty-fourth Street.....	3.80	1.04
3. Horace M. Grilla, 304 North Thirty-fourth Street.....	10.02	7.10
4. Mrs. M. L. Spaul, 302 North Thirty-fourth Street.....	2.34	1.38
5. Mrs. Sarah B. Reeves, 3308 East Marshall Street.....	6.84	3.71
6. Mrs. Laura W. Melton, 3408 East Marshall Street.....	10.71	17.57
7. Mrs. Virginia Jones, 3410 East Marshall Street.....	23.06	20.75
8. Thomas F. Boyle, 320 North Thirty-sixth Street.....	4.55	4.55
9. L. J. Martin, 318 North Thirty-sixth Street.....	4.56	4.55
10. Thomas F. Boyle, 311 North Thirty-sixth Street.....	11.46	11.46
11. Wyatt L. Goode, 293 North Thirty-sixth Street.....	7.32	3.00
12 and 13. B. O. Carlton, houses 3005 and 3007 East Broad Street.....	6.54	2.64
14. Smith and Johnson, 3004 East Broad Street.....	8.60	7.64

CASTORIA

For Infants and Children.

The Kind You Have Always Bought

Bears the Signature of J. C. Fletcher

FITTING UP ROOMS TO BE TORN DOWN

Department of Justice Spends Much Money On Offices for Judges.

PUZZLES FEDERAL OFFICIALS

Custodian Looks for New Quarters While Workmen Improve Old Place.

While the Treasury Department at Washington is preparing to tear down the present Federal building and erect a new one, the Department of Justice is spending \$10,000 to \$15,000 in fitting up and furnishing private offices for the United States circuit judges on the second floor of the structure.

Officials directly in touch with Federal affairs here can explain the apparent inconsistency of the Washington authorities on no other ground than that the two sides of the work are under separate departments, and that perhaps one is not officially advised of what the other is doing.

Curious Situation. An official in one of the departments suggested that one of the proposed plans for a new building called for another story on the old place; the tearing down of the Shafer Building and the construction on that site of one similar to the old, the two being connected by an aerial stairway. At an event the money now being expended on the interior would not be lost, as the improvements being made would stand. But this is looked upon as both improbable and infeasible. The walls of the present building would be torn down, and the new structure again it is believed to be the purpose of the government to raze this and the Shafer Building and erect a splendid new structure on the two lots.

Will Move Out Shortly. Though there has been no very tangible move recently with reference to the matter, it is the belief of well-posted officials in the various departments that all the offices will be located in temporary quarters within the next few months, and that the work of tearing down will then begin. Custodian Joseph B. Stewart has been incoined in the various departments, and he is now in search of suitable buildings. The post-office will be temporarily housed as near the present building as possible, though up to last night Mr. Stewart had not determined anything concerning the matter. The internal revenue and customs departments will probably take a building together, and the courts will be to themselves in another, carrying with them, of course, the clerks and United States marshal and his staff.

Other Offices. Then the Bureau of Animal Industry and the office of the marine hospital will have to be provided for, and all these together will require much space. It will be the policy of Mr. Stewart, as far as it can be done, to locate all the departments in the downtown section, for the convenience of the officials as well as the public.

Even if it shall be determined to add another story to the present post-office, the various departments would still have to vacate, as it would not be safe for them to remain while the work of improvement is in progress. The Department of Justice is proceeding with its work of renovation and improvement as though the building were not to be disturbed. The entire second floor, formerly occupied by the Internal Revenue Department and the United States district attorney's offices, has been turned over to the United States circuit judges and to the clerk of that tribunal. Rooms have been assigned to each judge, and furnished for the use of the judges. The entire cost of the improvement will reach about \$15,000.

Electricians are rewiring this portion of the building for individual cell phone service and for electric call bells, and when the heating department begins these handsome private rooms will be demolished along with the rest of the building.

The Post-Office. The supervising architect of the Treasury Department is expected here shortly after the holidays, by which time Mr. Stewart hopes to have all the offices located. The bulk of the post-office has grown to such an extent and the mail has become so heavy in recent years, that it will require a large building for this department, and it may be that after all a temporary wooden structure will have to be erected. It is believed that all the fighting is over concerning a site for the new building, and that the present one will be utilized without any serious opposition.

WALKING AROUND WORLD

Companions Gone, Globe-Trotter Keeps Stolidly at His Task.

Henri Mosse, who sets himself down on his bed registers as "Globe-Trotter," arrived in the city yesterday from Roanoke, Va., on foot, and is now stopping at the Lexington. Mosse is a Frenchman, and he has been walking around the world for some time. He has been in the city for some time, and he has been walking around the world for some time. He has been in the city for some time, and he has been walking around the world for some time.

With the Democratic caucuses of the two houses of the General Assembly less than a week off, only one real fight is in sight—that for the clerkship of the Senate. Mr. Thomas A. Lynch, of Tazewell, and Hon. Marshall B. Booker, of Halifax, are the candidates, and prominent party leaders in many sections have been drawn actively into the contest on one side or the other. Indeed, it is overshadowing nearly every other battle to be determined in the early stages of the session, and it is freely predicted that the final result will be close.

Mr. Lynch has been on the ground for several days, and he and his friends are working like beavers. Mr. Booker will be in to-morrow. He will open headquarters at Murphy's, where Mr. Lynch has his and some lively scrapings are expected from that time until the caucus determines the matter next Tuesday night.

RAGLAND SEEKING WRIT OF MANDAMUS

Notice Served on Beck That Application Will be Made in Chancery Court on Friday.

CITY ATTORNEY NOT IN CASE

Board of Safety Would Have Granted Permit Except for Property Ownership Issue.

Notice was served yesterday on Building Inspector Beck that counsel for John F. Ragland would apply to Judge Crinman in the Chancery Court on Friday morning at 10 o'clock for a writ of mandamus compelling him to issue a permit for the erection of six stores on North Fifth Street, the Board of Public Safety to the contrary notwithstanding.

The litigation will be all the more interesting in view of the general belief that the City Attorney will not represent a municipal officer. According to the City Attorney's opinion to the board, there is no ordinance to prohibit the erection of mercantile establishments in the residential districts, and had his advice been followed the complaint of adjoining property-owners would have been unavailing. Mr. Beck said yesterday that he would be represented by counsel, but he agreed that Mr. Pollard would be in a rather peculiar position should the regular legal department of the city be called on to oppose the mandamus in the Chancery Court. It is supposed that a decision favorable to the plaintiff, Mr. Ragland, is represented by Nelson & Nelson.

Board Ready to Grant It. More important than the legal proceedings in the fact, brought out yesterday that the Board of Public Safety was prepared on Monday to reverse the decision of Inspector Beck and allow the permit to be issued with the provision that the fire walls be made thirteen inches thick. Two points developed at the hearing were seized upon by the board, however, in rejecting finally the application. The members concluded that the arrangement whereby six stores were to be heated by one furnace was dangerous, and the appeal proper was thrown out summarily when it was stated that Mr. Ragland was not the fee simple owner of the property in question.

Mr. Ragland's lawyers declare that he has been the owner of the property in question for many years, and in this respect was ridiculous. As to the matter of the furnace, the members discussed the matter yesterday. They held that the courts will not accept any such ruling. Though the application for a permit has been turned out on two occasions, it is pointed out that Mr. Beck was not sustained in either case, for the reason that the board in the first instance rejected the appeal on the ground that an ordinance, long in existence, had not been complied with. In the second case, the board, having been called to its attention by the Inspector, in the second case, the appellant, lost for reasons already stated, namely, on the question of fee simple ownership brought up after Mr. Beck had rendered his decision. Therefore, it is plain that there has been no actual review of the Inspector's ruling by which the permit was refused, because of the protest of citizens residing in the immediate neighborhood.

May Attack Beck. Whether or not Mr. Ragland will insist upon holding Inspector Beck responsible at law for delaying his building plans is a rather indefinite proposition. In the event, however, that the mandamus is issued, the Inspector would unquestionably be required to pay the cost, and he could hardly expect Council to reimburse him, inasmuch as he had failed to be governed by the advice of City Attorney Pollard. Mr. Beck denied last night that the Grace Street property owners had agreed to indemnify him for personal loss at court.

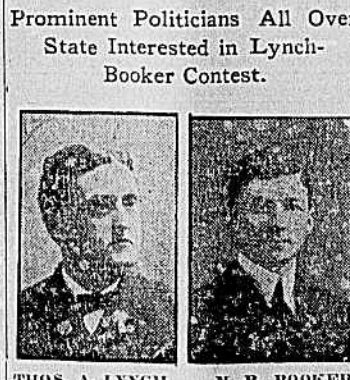
VIOLATE RULES

Members of Virginia Militia Called to Task by General Vaughan.

In view of certain irregularities in the service, General C. C. Vaughan, commanding the First Virginia Brigade, has issued an order as follows: "The commanding general that communications from members of the Virginia volunteers be directed to the adjutant general, United States Army, contrary to regulations. The commanding general that the members of the brigade will instruct the members of their respective commands of the impropriety of such action as in their judgment will avoid like occurrence."

HOT FIGHT ON FOR SENATE CLERKSHIP

Prominent Politicians All Over State Interested in Lynch-Booker Contest.



THOS. A. LYNCH.

With the Democratic caucuses of the two houses of the General Assembly less than a week off, only one real fight is in sight—that for the clerkship of the Senate. Mr. Thomas A. Lynch, of Tazewell, and Hon. Marshall B. Booker, of Halifax, are the candidates, and prominent party leaders in many sections have been drawn actively into the contest on one side or the other. Indeed, it is overshadowing nearly every other battle to be determined in the early stages of the session, and it is freely predicted that the final result will be close.

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New Year's Hunt This Morning



From left to right—Palmer Leigh, Edward Harris, J. St. George Bryan, M. F. H. Allen Potts.

PHOTO BY A. B. UPSHUR, TAKEN ON CHRISTMAS DAY.

New Year's Day at Deep Run Hunt Club will be celebrated by a morning hunt behind hounds, the Riverside Pack, of Petersburg, hunted by the master of the pack, Mr. Leroy Roper, furnishing the sport. Deep Run Pack will not be unkind, and while the Petersburg sports-

men have the privilege of hunting the country, they will have as their guests the members of Deep Run.

The meet will be at the clubhouse, at 11 o'clock, and after the drag, a reception will be held at which several prominent society women and debutantes will receive.

RETURNED TO BURNING

HOUSE; NEVER CAME BACK

Widely Known Physician of Hanover County Meets Awful Death in Flames—Daughter and Son Have Narrow Escape.

Dr. Thomas E. Williams, one of the oldest and best known physicians of Hanover county, suffered an awful and tragic death early yesterday morning, when he was consumed in the fire which destroyed his home. His daughter, Miss Agnes Williams, and one of his sons, Mr. William Williams, who was at home on a visit, narrowly escaped cremation. Dr. Williams himself would have been saved had he not, for some reason unknown, gone back into the house. The children attempted to prevent him from going, but unsuccessfully. Mr. Williams was badly burned, and Miss Williams had her hands lacerated in smashing her windows to escape.

Origin Unknown. How the fire started, or at what time, cannot be said. Even the nearest neighbors did not see the flames until nearly 6 o'clock, when the house was already doomed. It is supposed that the blaze originated in the kitchen, where the house caught once before, about four years ago. Constructed of heavy logs and weather boarding, the building was an easy prey to the flames, and but an hour or two elapsed before it was reduced to ashes.

Dr. Williams lived within a quarter of a mile of Peakes Station, on the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad, and but a short distance from Hanover Station. The neighborhood is well populated for a rural district, but the fire began at an hour when everybody was still in bed. Ill clad as they were, Mr. Williams and his sister rushed for aid, but the house was too far gone when assistance arrived.

Lending Physician. Dr. Williams was seventy-two years of age, and he had been for a number of years one of the leading physicians in the county. He was a native of Maryland, and served in the Confederate Army as surgeon of a Maryland regiment. Immediately after the war he moved to Hanover county, and there married Miss Pollard, a member of the well-known Virginia family of that name. He is survived by three daughters; Mrs. Bowe, widow of Bowler Bowe, of Hanover county, and a brother of Mr. N. V. Bowe, of Richmond; Mrs. Francis Louder, of Afton, and Miss Agnes Bowe, and three sons—Thomas, Med and William.

FOUND HONEST NEGRO

Hotel Clerk Got Back \$250 in Gold Given for a Dime.

Edward Epes, the popular young night clerk of the Hotel Guarant, has just escaped a double case of nervous prostration. In his stocking Christmas morning he found a \$250 gold piece. A few evenings later he was on his feet.

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BOY CHARGED WITH FORGERY ARRESTED

Frank Jennings Denies Guilt, But Many Charges Have Been Made Against Him.

Frank Jennings, a youth of eighteen years, was arrested yesterday evening and taken up to the Second Police Station on the charge of forgery. Only one charge, that of forging the name of Mrs. Ada L. Cabell, wife of Henry L. Cabell, was preferred against the boy, but it is stated that there are other allegations of a more serious nature. When seen last night in his cell, Jennings denied all charges against him, and strongly declared his innocence. He was, however, delivered by his brother to the police at headquarters yesterday afternoon, which is looked upon as practically a confession of guilt. He has employed Mr. Gilbert Pollock as his attorney.

CHRISTMAS TREE

Seventh Street Sunday School Has Big

The Sunday school of the Seventh Street Christian Church held its Christmas celebration in the lecture-room of the church last night. The decorations were fitting to the Christmas time, and the rooms were filled with the children and their elders. A large Christmas tree stood at the end of the room, and presents from it were distributed to each scholar, with special prizes for those who have been punctual in attendance and proficient in their lessons. Mr. L. T. Webster presided, and the following program was rendered: Solo, Miss Margaretta Stultz, "Little Folks in Other Lands." Mr. Cameron Johnson, solo, "Moses' Journey." Mrs. Childress and Isabel Smith, recitation, "The Christmas Tree." The entertainment closed with a prayer by the pastor, the Rev. Dr. J. J. Haley.

LIGHTS WILL BURN THROUGHOUT A WEEK

City Electrician Trying to Keep Streamers on Broad Street Permanently.

STREET CAR FOLK GENEROUS

General Manager, Huff Promptly Agrees to Continue Service Until Monday.

Through the courtesy of General Manager Huff, of the Passenger and Power Company, the streamer lights on Broad and Main Streets will burn until midnight on Sunday. In the meantime, City Electrician Thompson will make an official report to the Committee on Electricity, recommending that the service on Broad Street be continued indefinitely, the fund for that purpose to be provided in the budget for the present year. The "advertising" lights cost \$18 a night; the cost of one lamp is 17 cents a night. This latter fact may be a revelation to citizens in the annexed territory, who are clamoring for them, and who apparently have been under the impression that the cost was about \$17 a minute. There is a general cry from all quarters for better facilities, but the Broad Street demand for the streamers is simply irresistible.

Can Get Cheap Rate. Mr. Thompson said last night that for Broad Street alone a cheap rate can be secured, but he thinks that for the edification of passengers on Washington trains the service should extend to 23rd instead of the Masonic Temple. If Council declines to make the service permanent Mr. Thompson will urge that the streamers remain so for special occasions. He will interview the managers and see what they are willing to do about it.

In this connection it is proper to remember that Councilman William Lambeth White suggested that the streamer lights be provided for New Year's night, and out of the generosity of it, the Passenger and Power Company threw in four extras.

BACK FROM CHINA

Dr. and Mrs. Woods to Spend Some Time in Richmond.

Dr. and Mrs. James B. Woods and family landed at San Francisco on Friday, and are expected in Richmond by the afternoon train. Dr. Woods, who is from Charlottesville, is a graduate of the medical department of the University of Virginia, and has lived in China for the past fourteen years, engaged in medical missions in connection with the Southern Presbyterian Church. While located at Tsing King, China, he was in the heart of the famine district, he was made the chairman of the general committee for the distribution of supplies and large amounts of money and food were sent out through this agency to those who were suffering.

While in this country Dr. and Mrs. Woods will make their stay with Mrs. Woods' parents, Mr. and Mrs. James P. Smith, of Richmond.

Case Postponed. Hiram Crutched (colored) appeared in the Police Court yesterday morning on the charge of selling liquor without a license. He was arrested on Sunday by Bicycle Police, and is now in the city jail. His case is postponed to Friday.

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WILL BREAK GROUND FOR NEW BUILDING

Interesting Exercises Will Be Held by Y. M. C. A. This Afternoon.

The chief feature of the New Year festivities at the Central Young Men's Christian Association to-day will be the formal breaking of ground for the new building. The ceremony will be held at the old property on the lot at Grace and Seventh Streets. The event will be signified by a short service, during which the Y. M. C. A. will be formally dedicated. The program will be as follows:

O. A. Hawkins, chairman new building committee, presiding—Prayer, the Rev. Thomas Semmes; unlocking the door to the association, Mr. N. D. Silas; pulling out the first nail, Mr. H. C. Gentry, chairman women's committee; taking out the first brick, Ramon A. Fisher, ex-president of Boys' Bible Study Club; breaking ground, Mr. J. C. Gentry, chairman new building committee; Mr. Carr, Master James Douglas Lecky, Jr., Master O. J. Sands, Jr., Master K. McKee, Jr., every friend of the association is invited.

The new building committee has proceeded most carefully in its study of the plans and in preparation of the report of the twenty architects now working on plans for the competition will be in the hands of the committee on February 24. The building will be torn away during January, and the one on the corner during February, when the lot will be cleared for the erection of the new building. The committee is anxious to proceed just as soon as the friends will make it possible. There is need that the construction of the new building be completed by the end of the year.

Other Features. In the association hall at 3:30 there will be a social hour for boys and girls. This will be followed by gymnastics in the gymnasium at 4:30 and 5:30 o'clock.

At 2:30 P. M. the first of the winter night entertainments will be given by Mr. Joseph Lorrain, of New York, the manufacturer of the famous "Lorrain" brand of whistles, etc., and by Polk Miller's Old South Quartet. In their negro songs that are thoroughly enjoyed by the audience, the quartet will be in the gymnasium, and the day will close with a fellowship service of song at the main floor. The music room will be the main floor.

The members of the board of directors and women's committee will receive informally from 4 to 5:30 o'clock. In charge of Mrs. W. S. Murray and daughter.

Tickets for the night entertainment can be secured at the association building any time during the day or just before the entertainment.

WED IN WASHINGTON

Richmond Couple Marry at the National Capital and Surprise Friends.

Friends of Mr. A. A. Martin and Miss Leanda Tucker, a popular young lady of Church Hill, were surprised yesterday to learn that they had been married in Washington, their intention having been kept a profound secret up to the last moment. After a brief stay in Washington, the couple will return to the city and will reside at No. 2284 M Street. Mr. H. Waverly, of the city, was the officiating minister. After a brief stay in Washington, the couple will return to the city and will reside at No. 2284 M Street. Mr. H. Waverly, of the city, was the officiating minister. After a brief stay in Washington, the couple will return to the city and will reside at No. 2284 M Street. Mr. H. Waverly, of the city, was the officiating minister.